

This record is a partial extract of the original cable. The full text of the original cable is not available.

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 001649

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/29/2012

TAGS: [PHUM](#) [CU](#) [IT](#) [UNHRC](#)

SUBJECT: (C) ITALY: LUKEWARM SUPPORT FOR PROJECT VARELA

REF: A. SECSTATE 55698

[1](#)B. SECSTATE 49534

CLASSIFIED BY: POL MC TCOUNTRYMAN FOR REASONS 1.5 (B) AND (D)

[1](#)1. (U) POLOFF DELIVERED REF A DEMARCHE MARCH 26 TO  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ROME 01649 031054Z  
AMBASSADOR NICCOLO' GORETTI DE FLAMINI, MFA OFFICE DIRECTOR  
FOR CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN. GORETTI IS A FORMER  
AMBASSADOR TO NICARAGUA.

[1](#)2. (C) ACCORDING TO GORETTI, THE GOI WAS IN FAVOR OF THE  
VARELA PROJECT AND WAS FOLLOWING IT CLOSELY. THE GOI HAD  
INFORMATION THAT THE GOC WOULD HAMPER THE PROJECT BUT WOULD  
WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED. HE WOULD FAX OUR DEMARCHE TO  
THEIR AMBASSADOR TO CUBA. THEIR DCM IN HAVANA MET FREQUENTLY  
WITH DISSIDENTS AND WOULD SUPPORT THIS PROJECT IN THOSE  
MEETINGS.

[1](#)3. (C) GORETTI NOTED THAT SOME CUBAN DISSIDENTS OPPOSED  
PROJECT VARELA. THEY DID NOT BELIEVE THE GOC WOULD EVER  
ALLOW A REFERENDUM.

[1](#)4. (C) ASKED WHETHER THE GOI WOULD SUPPORT A RESOLUTION IN  
THE UN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS (UNCHR) ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN  
CUBA (REF B), GORETTI SAID THE GOI WOULD HAVE TO SEE THE TEXT  
AND COORDINATE WITHIN THE EU. PROBABLY THE GOI WOULD VOTE IN  
FAVOR OF SUCH A RESOLUTION BUT WOULD NOT COSPONSOR IT. ITALY  
WOULD BE LIKELY TO ABSTAIN ONLY IF THE TEXT MADE FAVORABLE  
MENTION OF THE AMERICAN EMBARGO, WHICH THE GOI OPPOSES. A  
BRITISH DEMARCHE ON THE SAME SUBJECT HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE  
EU TAKE A LOW PROFILE BUT VOTE IN FAVOR OF A RESOLUTION. THE  
GOI AND HMG PREFERRED THAT THE EMBARGO NOT BE MENTIONED IN A  
RESOLUTION, BUT SOME "EU GOVERNMENTS ON THE LEFT" DISAGREED  
AND, HE IMPLIED, WERE SEEKING TO INSERT A NEGATIVE REFERENCE  
TO THE EMBARGO.

[1](#)5. (C) COMMENT: GORETTI'S PROFESSION OF SUPPORT FOR  
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ROME 01649 031054Z  
PROJECT VARELA APPEARED PERFUNCTORY, AND HE REPEATEDLY DODGED  
POLOFF'S REQUEST FOR THE ITALIAN EMBASSY TO PUBLICLY ANNOUNCE  
SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT AND TO URGE THE GOC TO ALLOW THE  
PROJECT TO CONTINUE. HE SEEMED MORE EAGER TO TAKE POT SHOTS  
AT U.S. POLICY, WHICH HE SAID WAS BASED ON U.S. DOMESTIC  
POLITICS. END COMMENT.  
SEMBLER

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